



Chairman Richard Holland, Julia Pryor and Irene Booth cutting the cake at their 40th anniversary celebration.

## Barbara Bus Fund birthday

By Sippy Azizollah

On Sunday 14 September, the Barbara Bus Fund celebrated its 40th anniversary with a superb afternoon tea party for everyone involved with the charity.

The directors, co-ordinators, volunteer drivers and users gathered at Stanmore Orthopaedic Hospital, where the fund has its office.

On the lawn was an enormous marquee containing tables full of the most amazing food, plus a tombola, raffle, donated items to buy, informa-

tion books and leaflets.

A very special thank you to the co-ordinators, Julia Pryor and Irene Booth, who both do a fantastic job arranging trips for their users. On behalf of all the users, I'd also like to thank everyone behind the scenes of the Barbara Bus Fund for making this charity possible.

## KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

### A new kind of superhero

Deep in the hills outside Gotham City, Batman is hiding in the Bat Cave, fighting back a strange desire to bite Robin's head off. In Metropolis the cry goes out for Clark Kent to head for the nearest phone box and emerge as Superman but the man of steel is paralysed by kryptonite and all phone boxes have been vandalised. Outside, a cloud of despondency hangs across the world. The great banks are in trouble, bankers are leaping from the roof in despair and not even James Bond can help. Can anyone save us?

Then, suddenly, out of the dull grey skies a shadow spreads across the land. Children grab their mothers' arms and point as something strange looms into view. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's a new kind of superhero; it's Brown Gordon come to save the world!

Faster than a speeding milk float, Brown Gordon has come to save the world. As bankers leap from tall buildings Brown Gordon is there with his 30 billion pound safety net. As hedge funds hide from the dreaded trimmer, Brown Gordon is there to save them. There is nothing beyond his powers, a man who can take on Iceland can do almost anything. And to think that only a few weeks ago he was just a meek and mild, one-eyed Prime Minister staring oblivion in the face.

Suddenly, everything changed. Cometh the hour, cometh the superhero. In a flash, meek Gordon Brown disappeared into a toilet and emerged in a suit of brownest brown. Gordon had been humbled by the Cameroonies, seen fearsome Newt beaten by Blond Boris and been forced to look over his shoulder at the forces of evil lining up to turn Brown Land into a whole new blue world.

But not anymore, not now that he was Brown Gordon. Now he could send messengers to bring back the dreaded prince of Darkness from exile in Belgium. Now he could charm the birds out of the bushes and make common cause with the Great Obama to defeat the Oven Ready Chip Man. Yes, thanks to Brown Gordon, a new kind of superhero for a new kind of world, we were all safe for at least another week.

## Win tickets to the show of your choice

Whatever your taste in music, two new shows coming up at artsdepot in North Finchley are bound to appeal to you, and we have two pairs of tickets to give away for the show of your choice.

On Thursday 18 December, the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra are in concert, taking you on a trip down memory lane to the golden age of jazz.

The 10-piece band features saxes, trumpets, trombone, piano, banjo, guitar and bass, and conjures up a bygone era of top hats, white ties and tails.

The orchestra performs stylish, swinging and smooth popular music from Cole Porter to Noel Coward, American big bands to British dance bands, as well as comedy and variety songs.

Expect an evening of up-lifting music with classic tracks like *Happy Days Are Here Again* and *I'm In The Mood For Love*. The evening begins at 7.30pm and tickets are priced £16 (£14 concessions).

### Festive spirit

Then on Sunday 21 December, the Joyful Company of Singers, conducted by Peter Broadbent, perform an a cappella concert.

This acclaimed chamber choir will celebrate the Christmas story with music by Palestrina, Byrd, Victoria and Poulenc. In the second half the choir perform popular festive melodies by composers ranging from Vaughan Williams to Andrew Carter.

The concert starts at 5pm and tickets are priced £15 (£13 concessions). Tickets for both evenings can be booked through the artsdepot box office on 020 8369 5454 or online at [www.artsdepot.co.uk](http://www.artsdepot.co.uk).

*We have two pairs of tickets to give away to these concerts. To enter, just send your name, address and telephone number to Artsdepot competition, The Archer, PO Box 3699, London N2 8JA, or email your details to [the-archer@lineone.net](mailto:the-archer@lineone.net), marking your email Artsdepot competition. Two winners chosen at random after the closing date of 25 November will be able to choose tickets for either concert. Good luck!*

## Kokos branches out

By Diana Cormack

During 32 years of trading at 72-74 High Road, Kokos has built up a loyal band of customers both in and out of the area. Many of them are on the footwear shop's database and they were recently invited to an evening event for the second time this year.



Emma Gilgan and Aga Kolman at work in Kokos. Photo by Diana Cormack

Earlier in 2008 it was after the premises had been revamped with new lighting, seating and décor. This time guests could enjoy Italian wine and nibbles as they viewed the new autumn and winter collection.

Maria Stavrou, wife of the owner George, is particularly proud of their new range of evening shoes. She told *THE ARCHER* that many customers return to Kokos from far away and some even send their shoes by post to be repaired. Maria

loves this area. "When people move away there's always a bit of East Finchley in them and they come back," she said. "It's a special place with a special community."

George took over the business when he was 18. He is hoping to repeat the successful formula next year when they open another branch in Barnes. If you would like to receive details of new collections and promotions at Kokos, call in at the shop for an application form.



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